

Octavia Giles, Associate Grand Matron, and Frances E. Frances, Grand Secretary.

Fidelity No. 54 has been fortunate to have had dedicated members to serve Eureka Grand Chapter. Past Worthy Matrons with the help of Worthy Patrons, have contributed their time, knowledge, and experience enabling the Fidelity No. 54 Chapter to carry out a varied number of community programs. Fidelity No. 54 has been responsible for sending underprivileged children to camp during the summer, assisting in the feeding of the homeless in the Second District, responding to a request for non-perishable food and clothing for natural disaster victims, and extending charity to the family of their deceased members. Fidelity No. 54 members have taken part in doing volunteer work at several hospitals and nursing homes.

Fidelity No. 54 holds a host of community service events at the end of each year, including their annual Thanksgiving dinner for the community and their annual clothes drive.

Madam Speaker, I would like to also recognize the impressive achievements of Paulette Cudjoe, Fidelity's Worthy Matron and Elwood E. Gregory, Fidelity's Worthy Patron for their commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful group of Americans and the great things for which they stand.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative days of Wednesday, December 5, 2007, and Thursday, December 6, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 1127—"yea"; rollcall 1128—"yea"; rollcall 1129—"yea"; rollcall 1130—"nay"; rollcall 1131—"yea"; rollcall 1132—"yea"; rollcall 1133—"yea"; rollcall 1134—"nay"; rollcall 1135—"yea"; rollcall 1136—"nay"; rollcall 1137—"nay"; rollcall 1138—"yea"; rollcall 1140—"nay"; rollcall 1141—"yea".

A TRIBUTE TO ALBA MAY POWELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alba May Powell. Alba was born and raised in the Republic of Costa Rica. She is from a tightly knit family composed of five sisters and one brother. She received her formal education at Liberty Hall School and later moved to Panama where she lived for 35 years. In 1964, she migrated to the United States and settled in Brooklyn, NY.

Alba is an active participant at the East New York Seventh Day Adventist Church, where she has been a member for the past 36 years. Additionally, she is a member of the East New York Community Service Department, an honorary deaconess, and a member of the East

New York Benevolence Society. Alba is also a faithful supporter of the Concerned Women of Brooklyn.

Alba received a New York State Assembly Citation for Outstanding Achievements and Senior of the Year by Assemblywoman Diane Gordon.

Alba has no biological children of her own. She has been a supportive and concerned mother and grandmother to many children over the years. She is also a dedicated aunt to all of her beloved nieces and nephews. Alba vows to continue helping others as long as she is allowed.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this wonderful and caring woman who has given so much of herself, asking very little in return.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Alba May Powell.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a failure on the most basic points: It fails to drive down prices at the gas pumps; it fails to lower home heating bills; and it fails to reduce our reliance on foreign crude oil. Worse yet, this bill actually increases our reliance on oil from the Middle East and increases taxes by \$20 billion on American manufacturers.

Had this bill been crafted in a bipartisan fashion, instead of in a secret marathon session that produced a bill only this morning, we might have a bill that actually helps families and businesses dealing with record energy costs, and we might have a bill that actually helps us transition to more environmentally friendly fuels.

Unfortunately, what we do have—in addition to a new \$20 billion tax bill—are Federal mandates that States cannot possibly comply with, a slush fund worth billions of dollars that lacks any oversight, and more advisory committees and task forces.

I am particularly concerned about this \$3 billion in new government spending to subsidize projects that have nothing to do with lowering energy prices. Instead of lowering prices for consumers, this bill allows the Beverly Hills police department to buy hybrid Lexuses and a fake rainforest to be built in Iowa. In my view, this \$3 billion should be spent on helping Americans better afford their high home heating costs.

As a Member from Michigan, I would be remiss if I did not talk about the CAFE standards in this bill. To suggest this bill is the best America's automakers could get says much about this Congress. If President Coolidge's quote that "The business of America is business" expressed overconfidence in the American economy, this bill expresses at best a disdain for American automobile manufacturers and at worst an outright hostility to the work we do in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO WANDA A. JACKSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wanda A. Jackson. Wanda is the second generation child of the civic-minded parents, Della and Irkston R. "Jack" Jackson, Jr. Her mother, known as a friend to the friendless, providing a home for the homeless and making everyone feel special, has long been considered the mayor of East New York. In the shadow of her parents and the only girl in a family of six boys, Wanda has quietly and steadily made contributions to the Brooklyn community as well as to the community at large.

Wanda is a native of New York and a product of the city's public school system, graduating from John Dewey High School. She earned a business management degree at Berkeley College where she graduated magna cum laude. In 2005, she was listed among Who's Who of the Berkeley College Alumni Association.

Wanda maintains strong family ties while juggling a demanding, fast-paced career for nearly 20 years as an executive assistant at a major brokerage firm on Wall Street. She still finds time to lend assistance to major fundraising campaigns such as the United Negro College Fund, United Way of Tri-State, the Building Capital Fund Campaign at St. Paul's Community Baptist Church and Project Sunshine, a non-profit organization that provides free social, educational and recreational programs to children and families living with medical challenges. During tax season, Wanda can be found preparing tax returns for Brooklyn's East New York residents. She is also former treasurer of the Rosetta Gaston United Democratic Club, Inc., where she was a close friend of the late Mary Warren, district leader for East New York. She is also a current member of the Spirit of America Heart Volunteers.

In addition to her professional and volunteer accomplishments, Wanda is extremely creative, with a flair for fashion. She attended Fishburn's Charm School and graduated from Barbizon Modeling School. She has designed her own clothes, which she models at talent shows.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this accomplished, civic-minded woman who comes from a lineage of giving people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Wanda A. Jackson.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN YOUTH CENTER IN JOLIET, IL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Christian Youth Center in Joliet, IL. The Christian Youth Center, CYC, is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

In 1957, a group of concerned businessmen under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Pickering,